

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) An automated method for reconditioning a plurality of digital discs, each of said digital discs comprising data underlying a protective coating, said method comprising:

holding said digital discs to be reconditioned in a feed area;

transferring each of said digital discs from said feed area to ~~at least one~~ a first workstation with a disc transfer mechanism; and

contacting each of said digital discs transferred to said first workstation with at least one worktool operable to at least partially recondition said protective coating of each of said digital discs;

transferring each of said digital discs from said first workstation to a plurality of successive workstations with said disc transfer mechanism; and

at each of said successive workstations, contacting each of said digital discs with at least one worktool operable to at least partially recondition said protective coating of each of said digital discs.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein said digital discs are reconditioned without manual manipulation of said digital discs.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising transferring each of said digital discs from said workstation to a receiving cartridge with said disc transfer mechanism.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein said transferring and contacting steps are controlled by a controller.
25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein said contacting step comprises moving said worktool into contact with each of said digital discs.
26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein said feed area comprises a feed cartridge.
27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein said feed area further comprises a turntable that is rotatable between a load position wherein each of said digital discs is deposited onto said turntable and an unload position wherein each of said digital discs is removed from said turntable for transfer to said workstation.
28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein said disc advancement mechanism comprises at least one suction tool operable to grasp each of said digital discs from said feed area and deposit each of said digital discs at said workstation.
29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein said transferring step comprises depositing each of said digital discs on a turntable of said workstation.
30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, further comprising rotating said turntable and said worktool during said contacting step.
31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein said worktool is operable to remove a portion of said protective coating of each of said digital discs without removal of said data underlying said protective coating.
32. (Cancelled)

33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~32~~ 21, wherein each of said worktools is operable to perform at least one reconditioning task selected from the following group: remove a portion of said protective coating of each of said digital discs without removal of said data underlying said protective coating; wax said protective coating of each of said digital discs; and polish said protective coating of each of said digital discs.

34. (Currently Amended) An automated method for reconditioning a digital disc placed within a reconditioning apparatus, said digital disc comprising data underlying a protective coating, said method comprising:

contacting said digital disc with at least a first worktool operable to remove a portion of said protective coating of said digital disc without removal of said data underlying said protective coating;

contacting said digital disc with at least a second worktool operable to polish said protective coating of said digital disc; and

wherein said digital disc is supported by a turntable during each of said contacting steps; and

wherein said contacting steps are performed without manual manipulation of said digital disc to thereby provide automated reconditioning of said digital disc within said reconditioning apparatus.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, wherein said contacting steps are controlled by a controller.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, wherein said contacting steps comprise successively moving said first and second worktools into contact with said digital disc.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein said first and second worktools are vertically moveable relative to said digital disc.
38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, further comprising contacting said digital disc with at least a third worktool operable to wax said protective coating of said digital disc.
39. (Cancelled)
40. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~39~~ 34, further comprising rotating said turntable and said first and second worktools during each of said contacting steps.
41. (New) An automated method for reconditioning a digital disc placed within a reconditioning apparatus, said digital disc comprising data underlying a protective coating, said method comprising:

contacting said digital disc with at least a first worktool operable to remove a portion of said protective coating of said digital disc without removal of said data underlying said protective coating, wherein said first worktool is vertically moveable relative to said digital disc;

contacting said digital disc with at least a second worktool operable to polish said protective coating of said digital disc, wherein said second worktool is vertically moveable relative to said digital disc; and

wherein said contacting steps comprise successively moving said first and second worktools into contact with said digital disc and are performed without manual manipulation of said digital disc to thereby provide automated reconditioning of said digital disc within said reconditioning apparatus.

42. (New) An automated method for reconditioning a digital disc placed within a reconditioning apparatus, said digital disc comprising data underlying a protective coating, said method comprising:

contacting said digital disc with at least a first worktool operable to remove a portion of said protective coating of said digital disc without removal of said data underlying said protective coating;

contacting said digital disc with at least a second worktool operable to polish said protective coating of said digital disc;

contacting said digital disc with at least a third worktool operable to wax said protective coating of said digital disc; and

wherein said contacting steps are performed without manual manipulation of said digital disc to thereby provide automated reconditioning of said digital disc within said reconditioning apparatus.